

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7532**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1346

**NOTE PREPARED:** Apr 7, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:** Apr 7, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Various Election Matters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Pearson

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Wyss

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2<sup>nd</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *Absentee Ballots*- The bill provides that a public safety officer may vote an absentee ballot by mail.

*Return to Vote after Emergency*- The bill provides that a public safety officer who has signed the poll list and is called from the polls before voting to respond to an emergency in the voter's capacity as a public safety officer is entitled to return to the polls and vote upon execution of an affidavit.

*Newcomer Vote in Person*- The bill provides that a voter must vote in person and may not vote an absentee ballot by mail if the voter registered to vote in the county by mail and has not previously voted in the county.

*Vote Centers in Flood Counties*- The bill allows the county election board of a county declared a major disaster area by the President of the United States to determine, by the unanimous vote of the entire board membership, that the county's voting systems are unusable as the result of the disaster and to file with the election division: (1) a statement certifying the board's determination; and (2) an order adopting a plan to administer the county's elections using vote centers.

*Vote Centers in Counties with Inoperable Voting System*- The bill requires the county election board of a county that cannot use a voting system because the county cannot obtain technical or other operating support for the system to adopt, not later than November 1, 2009, a plan for the administration of elections using vote centers.

*Vote Center Rescind Moratorium*- The bill provides that a county required to adopt a plan to use vote centers may not rescind the plan before December 31, 2011.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Return to Vote after Emergency-* The Election Commission (EC) would be able to prescribe an affidavit form within the course of a regular business meeting. If completely accessible electronically, the Election Division (ED) would have minimal, if any, expenditures from printing the affidavit form.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Absentee Ballots-* Counties may require extra absentee ballots available as a result of this provision. The impact would depend on the number of qualified voters that apply for an absentee ballot and vote by mail.

*Return to Vote after Emergency-* Precinct election board clerks may require additional administrative time to fill out affidavits for public safety personnel returning from an emergency to vote.

(Revised) *Newcomer Vote in Person-* This provision would apply to persons that registered to vote in their county by mail and have not previously voted in that county. The impact to local expenditures would be minimal and would require a voter to vote either at a satellite facility or on election day at their precinct.

(Revised) *Vote Centers in Flood Counties-* The impact of this provision would depend on the number of county election boards that decided to adopt vote centers.

(Revised) *Vote Centers in Counties with Inoperable Voting System-* The counties of Boone, Cass, Parke, and Randolph would have to establish vote centers as the primary means of voting. The impact of this provision is unknown and would depend on the number of centers established and the equipment purchased to carry out this provision.

**Background Information- First Responders-** The following table provides estimates on the number of certain Indiana first responder occupations that would be affected by the bill.

**Table A. First Responder Estimated Employment**

<b>First-Responder Occupation (IC 10-14-2-5)</b>	<b>Estimated Employment 2007</b>
Firefighters/Emergency Medical Service Providers	6,050
Police Officers (Local)	10,760
Police Officers (State)	1,266
Excise Police	470
Conservation Officers	180
Probation Officers	1,830
Correctional Officers	8,460

**Table A. First Responder Estimated Employment (Cont.)**

<b>First-Responder Occupation (IC 10-14-2-5)</b>	<b>Estimated Employment 2007</b>
Paramedics/EMT's	5,090
State or Local Emergency Management Agency	230
Total	34,336

Flood Counties & Vote Centers- The following table shows the number of counties that potentially could be eligible for the establishment of vote centers.

**Table B. Counties Declared as Major Disaster Area From June 6-27, 2008 Flooding**

<b>Type Of Assistance</b>	<b>Counties Awarded Assistance</b>
Individual and Household	Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Huntington, Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Pike, Posey, Putnam, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Washington, Wayne
Public (State and local govt.)	Adams, Bartholomew, Benton, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Decatur, Fountain, Gibson, Greene, Hendricks, Henry, Jay, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Owen, Posey, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Switzerland, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Wayne
Category B Public (direct Federal Assistance only)	Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Madison, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Owen, Parke, Pike, Putnam, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, Washington, Wayne
[Note- Boone, Parke, and Randolph were declared major disaster areas during the June 2008 flooding.]	

Vote Centers- Tippecanoe County paid their vote center inspectors \$170 per day during the 2007 election, partially to include increased training time (four hours), versus \$160 for a conventional election. Two of the larger expenditures for Tippecanoe County included \$10,750 for electronic polling software and mail voter postcards at \$12,465.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Election Commission, Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties (precinct election boards).

**Information Sources:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Indiana State Police: 2007 Annual Report; Indiana State Budget Agency: *General and Rainy Day Fund Summaries, June 30, 2008*; Linda Phillips, Tippecanoe County Clerk, 765-423-9326; U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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